

Regular Session, 2011

HOUSE BILL NO. 194

BY REPRESENTATIVE WILLIAMS

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

HEALTH: Requires the Dept. of Children and Family Services to report to the House and Senate health and welfare committees on educational services provided within the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

1 AN ACT

2 To enact Subpart A-1 of Part II of Chapter 3 of Title 46 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes
3 of 1950, to be comprised of R.S. 46:236.1, relative to the Supplemental Nutrition
4 Assistance Program; to provide for legislative findings; to establish certain reporting
5 requirements for the Department of Children and Family Services; and to provide for
6 related matters.

7 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

8 Section 1. Subpart A-1 of Part II of Chapter 3 of Title 46 of the Louisiana Revised
9 Statutes of 1950, comprised of R.S. 46:236.1, is hereby enacted to read as follows:

10 SUBPART A-1. NUTRITION ASSISTANCE

11 §236.1. Legislative findings; Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
12 educational component; reporting requirements

13 A. The legislature finds and declares the following:

14 (1) The program still commonly known as "food stamps" was renamed the
15 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) in October 2008. SNAP is
16 administered at the federal level by the United States Department of Agriculture
17 Food and Nutrition Service and at the state level by the Louisiana Department of
18 Children and Family Services, hereafter referred to as "department".

1 (2) SNAP is the cornerstone of the federal food assistance programs and
2 provides crucial support to needy households and to those making the transition from
3 welfare to work.

4 (3) By federal policy, SNAP benefits may only be used for the purchase of
5 nonalcoholic beverages and food which is not hot at the point of sale and may not be
6 used to purchase any nonfood items.

7 (4) The population of Louisiana has historically encompassed one of the
8 highest proportions of SNAP recipients in the nation.

9 (5) Federal regulations require states to administer educational services
10 within the SNAP program. Such services are known as SNAP Education, and are
11 designed to teach food budgeting, proper nutrition, and healthy food choices to
12 SNAP recipients.

13 (6) It is the public policy of this state to support basic health, human welfare,
14 education, and self-sufficiency among its most vulnerable citizens. Effective
15 educational efforts, including nutrition education, are necessary for this state to break
16 its historic cycle of generational poverty.

17 B. On or before March first annually, the department shall submit to the
18 House Committee on Health and Welfare and the Senate Committee on Health and
19 Welfare a comprehensive report on the SNAP Education program. The report shall
20 include but not be limited to the following items:

21 (1) Analysis and commentary on major health challenges faced by low-
22 income Louisiana families.

23 (2) Data on SNAP Education participants, including a description of the
24 ideal target population, actual number of participants served, geographic distribution
25 of participants, and participant demographics.

26 (3) A description of program operations, including details on selection of
27 participants, service delivery, and activities conducted by all SNAP Education
28 program contractors and subcontractors.

- 1 (4) Analysis of program outcomes, including knowledge gain and behavior
 2 change among participants and other significant impacts to SNAP Education service
 3 recipients.
- 4 (5) Public policy recommendations for enhancing the SNAP Education
 5 program and for supporting better health and nutrition generally among low-income
 6 families of this state.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

Williams

HB No. 194

Abstract: Requires the Dept. of Children and Family Services (DCFS) to report to the House and Senate health and welfare committees on educational services provided within the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.

Proposed law provides legislative findings regarding the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), which is still commonly known as "food stamps"; and the SNAP Education program, which provides nutrition education services to low-income families receiving SNAP benefits.

Proposed law requires DCFS to submit a report on the SNAP Education program to the House and Senate Health and Welfare committees by March 1 annually, which shall include but not be limited to the following items:

- (1) Analysis and commentary on major health challenges faced by low-income La. families.
- (2) Data on SNAP Education participants, including a description of the ideal target population, actual number of participants served, geographic distribution of participants, and participant demographics.
- (3) A description of program operations, including details on selection of participants, service delivery, and activities conducted by all SNAP Education program contractors and subcontractors.
- (4) Analysis of program outcomes, including knowledge gain and behavior change among participants and other significant impacts to SNAP Education service recipients.
- (5) Public policy recommendations for enhancing the SNAP Education program and for supporting better health and nutrition generally among low-income families of this state.

(Adds R.S. 46:236.1)